

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH



1887 — 1937

ST. MARTIN'S CHAPEL



A Brief History
of its
Origin and Work



1887 - 1937



RT. REV. JOSEPH BLOUNT CHESHIRE

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE ORIGIN OF THIS WORK

When I became Rector of St. Peter's Church, Charlotte, N. C., in the year 1881, a small brick schoolhouse stood near the site of the present St. Martin's Chapel, corner of 10th and D streets, in that part of the city then called "Mechanicsville". This school with six city lots adjacent belonged to the Public School Board. I was told that one of my predecessors, the Rev. Benj. L. Bronson, had used this house as a sort of Chapel for the benefit of the people of the neighborhood.

One of my first missionary ventures in Charlotte was to open a Sunday School in this building. It was well attended and promised good results; but in a year or so the building was destroyed by fire, and the work had to be given up.

About the year 1885, I forget the exact date, I bought from the School Board the lots in question, and immediately made to the Trustees of the Diocese a deed, in which my wife joined, conveying to them the lot at the corner of 10th and D streets, fronting 99 feet on D Street, and running 198 feet along 10th Street, and marked the corner with a stone set in the earth. The deed specified that the property was intended to be used as mission work under the control of the Rector of St. Peter's Church, Charlotte, N. C., but provided further that if at any time it should be thought desirable to organize a separate parish in that quarter of the city, the new parish should have the right of this property if it should desire to have it.

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carried on with much zeal, until in the spring of 1902, those interested in the Missionary work in and near Charlotte proposed a consolidation of the three chapels, St. Andrew's Chapel, Seversville, the Chapel of Hope, and St. Martin's Chapel, into one mission, and the employment of a City Missionary to have all this work in charge. This was finally effected with the consent of the Rector of St. Peter's Church, the Rev. Clarence C. Leman; and in October, 1902, the Rev. Geo. M. Tolson, was appointed by the Bishop as Priest in charge of these Chapels, and a Missionary in the vicinity of Charlotte, the whole, from the time of its separations from St. Peter's Parish, having been under the general charge of Archdeacon Osborne, who has always been most earnest and active in assisting in the work of St. Martin's Chapel from the time of its erection.

JOSEPH BLOUNT CHESHIRE.

March 5th, 1903.



FRANCIS M. OSBORNE

ADDITION TO THE HISTORY OF ST. MARTIN'S CHAPEL, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

During the early part of the year 1904 Rev. Mr. Tolson gave up the work of City Missionary in Charlotte and in September, 1904, Rev. Francis M. Osborne assumed the charge of St. Martin's in connection with his other work in the city. From September, 1904, to December, 31, 1911, regular services and Sunday School were maintained in the Chapel on the corner of 10th and Davidson streets. After this date, that is on the first Sunday in January, 1912, under the superintendence of Mr. C. E. Frick, who had been in charge of the Sunday School for nearly eleven years, the School was transferred to the Guild Room which had been removed to the lot selected for the new St. Martin's (the Wilkes Memorial) on East Seventh Street Extension near Hawthorne Lane. On Sunday, April 7th (Easter Day), 1912, the last service (the Holy Communion) was held at the old Chapel and on Sunday, April 14th, at 8:30 a.m., in the Guild Room, were inaugurated the first regular services to be held at the new site—though occasional services had been already held here during Lent.

Wednesday, April 24th, 1912, has been set for the laying of the corner stone of the new Church. The new lot and building will be paid for by the proceeds from the sale of the property at the corner of 10th and Davidson streets and from a donation of \$1,500 from the sale of St. John's Chapel on Graham Street (which property is a part of the Wilkes estate) supplemented by private donations for this purpose.

April 17, 1912.

FRANCIS M. OSBORNE.



On the first Sunday in May, 1901, I took charge of St. Martin's Sunday School as superintendent. As nearly as I can remember the following members of St. Peter's Church were with me on that day:

Miss Lillie Hall, now Mrs. W. A. Avant, Miss Emma Hall, Miss Kate Davis, now Mrs. Odell Southerland, Miss Laura Guion, now Mrs. A. C. Haskell, and Mr. W. A. Avant. No Sunday School had been held in the Chapel for several months, as the Brotherhood of St. Andrew had built the Chapel of Hope near Highland Park No. 1 and were giving their energies to that work, and the other workers at St. Martin's had become discouraged. Sunday School has been held regularly in St. Martin's since that date. While never very large in numbers at the old site, the School held the esteem of the neighborhood.

For the first year or so, church services were held about one Sunday in the month by Rev. C. C. Leman,

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the Rector of St. Peter's, Ven. E. A. Osborne, Arch-deacon of Charlotte, and Rev. Walter J. Smith, of the Thompson Orphanage. In the fall of 1902, Rev. George M. Tolson was appointed City Missionary and regular services were held every Sunday night at St. Martin's and a Celebration of the Holy Communion at least once a month. On Sunday night, December 21, 1902, a class of four was confirmed by Bishop Cheshire and another class of four was confirmed on February 21, 1903.

On March 3, 1903, St. Martin's Chapel was made an organized mission by Bishop Cheshire and the following officers were appointed:

C. E. Frick, Warden; R. W. Vincent, Clerk, and Adlai Osborne, Treasurer.

The Rev. Mr. Tolson resigned this work early in 1904 and was succeeded in September, 1904, by Rev. Francis M. Osborne as Deacon in Charge of St. Martin's and the Church of the Holy Comforter, which had been organized at the same time as St. Martin's. Mr. Osborne was ordained a Priest on March 25, 1905, and continued the same work until Rev. Mr. Jackson took charge in 1914. During the interim the regular morning and evening services at both chapels were held by the lay reader, so that both organizations, while not growing very fast, did not die, but were recognized as promising fields.

It is hard to remember all who were connected with the Sunday School at its old site, but very efficient help

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was given by Mrs. Cornelia Schroeder, Miss Josephine Osborne, Miss Mary Armand Nash, Mrs. Kate Guion, Mrs. A. S. Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Green, Miss Bessie Green (now Mrs. J. L. McKee), Mrs. W. P. Lowe, Miss Anna Morgan (now Mrs. John M. Barr), Misses Kate and Isabel Barr (now Mrs. Lewis E. Green and Mrs. W. Fred Moody), Miss Mary Price (now Mrs. Robert Conway), and Miss Ella Smeltzer, of Harrisonburg, Va., as well as Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Avant.

Small improvements to the building were gradually made, such as an altar, and altar cross and an altar rail. The rail was given by Mr. John L. Villalonga, who afterwards became a Priest of the church. A Baptismal Font was given by Miss Smeltzer and the handsome memorial stained glass window, now in the present church, was given by Mrs. Fannie L. Lutterloh in memory of her son in 1910. Electric lights were installed about 1906.

About the fall of 1905, a frame Guild Room was built adjoining the Chapel in which many gatherings were held. This building was moved from the old site to the new site in the latter part of 1911 and Sunday School was held in it on the first Sunday in January, 1912. The Christmas Tree services for the children was the first service on the new site. This building is now part of the present parish house and has been added to at least five times. Much of the foundation of the present building is built of brick from the old chapel and

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some of the rafters are from lumber from the old building. The corner stone of the building, the plans of which were designed by the late Adlai Osborne, of Charlotte, was laid by Bishop Cheshire on April 24th, 1912. The church was completed in the fall of that year, the first service being held on November 3, 1912, Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity. The Rt. Rev. Lewis W. Burton, Bishop of Lexington, Kentucky, preached the sermon on that occasion.

As the congregation in the new location grew, it became necessary to have a morning service, so Mr. Francis H. Ball, then teaching in a private school in Charlotte, was engaged as lay reader and morning service was begun late in 1913 or early in 1914. It was soon seen that the work required the full time of a minister, so a call was extended to Rev. Francis M. Osborne, the priest in charge, but Mr. Osborne declined the call as he felt his services were needed more by the Church of the Holy Comforter. A call was then extended to the present rector, Rev. John Long Jackson, then rector of Emmanuel Church, Harrisonburg, Va. After considerable hesitation, Mr. Jackson accepted the call and has been with St. Martin's since September 15th, 1914. He was formally instituted in this work in an impressive service by Bishop Cheshire on Sunday, November 15th, 1914. The Church was recognized as a parish and admitted to union with the Diocese of North Carolina on May 19th, 1915, at the meeting of the Convention in Greensboro, N. C.

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Since Mr. Jackson became the rector, the Church has continued to grow in good fellowship and good works. The Church building has been enlarged twice and another addition will have to be made soon. The Guild Room, as it was first called, has been added to five times and even with this, more room is needed. We have a parish house fund amounting to about \$6,000.00 looking towards the building of a new parish house. The Woman's Guild has installed a \$5,000.00 Austin pipe organ. A comfortable rectory has been built on the property. Many handsome memorials and thank offerings have been given to the Church: the altar cross and candlesticks, the processional cross, vases, altar and altar rail, credence table, pulpit, lectern, litany desk, hymn boards, baptismal font, patens, chalices, alms basins, altar book and altar book desk, and a carpet for the chancel. The new pews and the frontals are memorials or thank offerings given by members of families of the church.

During the World War nine of the members served with the American forces, one of whom, Edward L. Davis, was killed in action. Their services have been commemorated by a row of beautiful water oaks along the front of the lot. Five of the fathers of the men in action gave our first American flag. Last Easter the Forty and Eight Club gave a new one as a memorial of one of our deceased members. While Camp Greene was located in Charlotte, the Church and the Woman's Guild did much to make the sojourn of the soldiers

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pleasant by keeping open house at the Guild Room and at the Myers Park Club.

During the Confederate Reunion in Charlotte in 1929, the Guild Room was used as an emergency hospital.

St. Martin's Community Club was the first organization of its kind in Charlotte.

To the best of my knowledge, at least six men who attended either the Church or the Church School have entered the ministry of the Church, although only three of them have gone directly from St. Martin's Church:

Rev. John L. Villalonga, now deceased; Rev. Francis H. Ball, Seaside, Oregon; Rev. William A. Lillycrop, Sarasota, Fla.; Rev. Andrew D. Milstead, York, S. C.; Rev. Thomas Simons Clarkson, Taylor, Texas, and Rev. William F. Draper, Sendai, Japan. Mr. Draper and his wife volunteered for work as missionaries and went to Japan in 1935.

CLARENCE E. FRICK.

August 28, 1937.



REV. JOHN L. JACKSON

BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE PRESENT WORK

In the spring of 1914, Mr. Clarence E. Frick and Mr. J. Renwick Wilkes visited me at Mount Jackson, Virginia, and brought to me from Bishop Joseph B. Cheshire and the members of St. Martin's congregation an invitation to become the minister in charge of St. Martin's Church. After a visit to this new field where I preached on Whitsunday, May 31st, I accepted this call and entered upon my duties on September 15, 1914.

I found a congregation of 140 Baptized Persons, 60 families and 80 Communicants. Mr. Clarence E. Frick was superintendent of the Sunday School with 70 teachers and children.

This Church was the first church building east of Sugaw Creek in this new development of Charlotte and it is located on a valuable lot of 412 feet frontage which was purchased for \$3,000.00 and this exact sum had been realized from the sale of the old lot on 10th and Davidson streets to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and this original lot was a gift from Bishop Cheshire.

The new St. Martin's Church, at the suggestion of Bishop Cheshire, was made the Wilkes Memorial in loving memory of Mr. John Wilkes, who had died in Charlotte, July 5, 1908. Mr. Wilkes had been a Vestryman of St. Peter's Church for 53 years, its Senior Warden 48 years, Treasurer of the Diocese five years, member of Diocesan Convention from 1857 to 1908—only missing two annual meetings in those years. He was Deputy to seven General Conventions. It was most fit-

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ting that this daughter church of St. Peter's should become a memorial to him.

During my twenty-three years, the people of this Church have been enthusiastic, friendly, unselfish and generous and the seed sown by my predecessor, the Rev. Francis M. Osborne, has borne fruit.

We rejoice in a continuing interest in the regular church services and we have enlarged our church in order to have space for the growing attendance at church Worship. Throughout the years a large percentage of our people have been regular and earnest Communicants.

Religious Education has been a corner stone in the building up of this Parish. This was the first Parish in the State to have a full time Educational Secretary, and Mrs. Baxter Moore has given us valuable leadership in this important phase of our work. Our Church School has grown from 70 members to a total of 302, including 35 officers and teachers, 228 pupils and 39 Bible Class members. Four young men from our Church School have entered the Ministry of our Church.

Missionary zeal has strengthened our people in a realization of their part in the unity of God's Church and our people have recognized their responsibilities to extend the Kingdom in Diocese, Nation and World. Christian Fellowship has made of our Church one large family, and all work together without any serious friction for the furthering of a unified Program. We have

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entered into the life of our Community and our Boy's Work, Men's Club and Community Bible Class have recognized the joy of cooperating with our fellow Christians in all good works. St. John's Baptist Church was organized in our Sunday School building. All the churches of this community have united in every opportunity for Christian Cooperation.

As our Parish has been always blessed in having sufficient material prosperity to carry on unaided our own work, we have not forgotten the underprivileged and needy of our City and have always given generously for the support of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Statistics give our growth as follows:

	1914	1937
Families	60	193
Baptized Members	140	713
Communicants	80	424
Receipts (Ourselves)	\$2,090.00	\$8,740.00
Receipts (Others)	112.00	2,866.75
Value of Church Property...	15,000.00	58,000.00

In my 23 years I have Baptized 296 children and adults, presented 346 persons for Confirmation, united 71 couples in Holy Matrimony, and have conducted 95 funerals of whom 54 were members of this Church.

I cannot conclude this short sketch of these twenty-three years without an expression of my gratitude to Almighty God for His continued Blessings upon us and

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my heartfelt appreciation of all the wonderful love shown to me and to my family throughout my very happy Ministry.

Let us look forward to a greater Service for our Blessed Master and as our Beloved Bishop, the Right Rev. Edwin A. Penick, D.D., Consecrates this Church to be used only for Divine Worship to our loving Father, we pray that God's Holy Spirit will consecrate each member of this Parish to use all his talents for the carrying forward of our Master's Kingdom.

JOHN L. JACKSON.

Wednesday, September 8, 1937.



ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH TODAY

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